

REMARKS

In the Office Communication, the Examiner has stated that the Reply to Restriction Requirement filed January 28, 2008 is incomplete for failing to include the election of one of the numerous inventions set forth in the Restriction Requirement mailed on September 26, 2007.

In the January 28, 2008 Reply to Restriction Requirement, Applicants elected with traverse Group C, defined by the Examiner as a nitrile hydratase which comprises variants of the α and β subunits of SEQ ID NO: 1 and 2, respectively, and a method of use of said nitrile hydratase for producing an amide compound. However, the Examiner has further required election of an explicitly defined variant (*i.e.* a sequence in which each of the substituted amino acids are explicitly defined, as set forth at page 5 of the September 26, 2007 Restriction Requirement).

In response, Applicants hereby further elect with traverse the nitrile hydratase of Group C wherein said α subunit variant has a substitution at positions 6, 19, and 126 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and wherein said β subunit variant has a substitution at positions 48, 108, and 212 of SEQ ID NO: 2 (*see* Example 74 in the present specification). The reasons for traversal are provided in the prior response.

CONCLUSION

This response is made without prejudice or disclaimer to any non-elected subject matter, and Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any non-elected subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions related to this response, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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